

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-15 ACDA-19 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 091615Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2501

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, XF

SUBJECT: GDR ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. THUS FAR, GDR REACTION TO OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN ME HAS BEEN RATHER CIRCUMSPECT. FIRST OFFICIAL COMMENT WAS IN SPEECH DELIVERED BY STOPH EVENING OCTOBER 7 ON OCCASION ANNIVERSARY OF GDR FOUNDING. STOPH SHARPLY CONDEMNED WHAT HE CALLED NEW MILITARY ATTACKS BY ISRAELI AGGRESSORS AGAINST SAR, UAR AND LEBANON (SIC), BUT ALSO STRESSED GDR SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH NOVEMBER 67 UN RESOLUTION. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT REASON FOR CONTINUED GDR

SUPPORT FOR "JUST STRUGGLE" OF ARAB PEOPLES IS NEED FOR
DETENTE TO BE EXTENDED BEYOND EUROPE TO ALL PARTS OF
WORLD.

2. STATEMENT ISSUED BY POLITBURO, COUNCIL OF STATE,
AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON OCTOBER 7 IS EVEN MORE
CAUTIOUS, EVIDENTALLY TAKING ITS CUE FROM SOVIET GOVERN-
MENT STATEMENT (BOTH FRONT-PAGED IN OCTOBER 8 NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND). IN ITS STATEMENT, GDR CHARGES ISRAEL
WITH PREVENTING POLITICAL SOLUTION, ENGAGING IN MILITARY
PROVOCATION OF ARABS, AND EVEN STARTING MILITARY ACTIONS.
HOWEVER, WHILE PLACING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES OF ISRAEL AND THOSE
IMPERIALIST FORCES SUPPORTING ITS "POLICY OF AGGRESSION",
GDR CRITICISM IS IN ESSENTIALLY HISTORICAL TERMS AND
REFRAINS FROM ACCUSING ISRAEL OF AGGRESSION IN PRESENT
INSTANCE. IN WHAT MAY INDICATE CONCERN LEST THE SITUA-
TION GET OUT OF HAND, GDR STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING
"FIRM SOLIDARITY" WITH ARAB PEOPLES, STOPS SHORT OF
ENDORING UAR/SAR MILITARY EFFORTS AND STRESSES THAT
WORLD PEACE REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION OF DANGEROUS
HOTBED OF WAR IN ME.

4. CONSISTENT WITH THIS OFFICIAL GDR POSTURE, EAST
GERMAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF ME EVENTS HAS ALSO BEEN
RESTRAINED, ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON WITH EARLIER
TREATMENT OF CHILEAN COUP. WHILE BASING ITS REPORTS
ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS LARGELY ON CAIRO AND DAMASCUS
SOURCES, GDR PRESS HAS BEEN CARRYING OCCASIONAL
CITATIONS OF ISRAELI COMMUNIQUE AS WELL, THUS TEMPERING
ARAB CLAIMS OF SUCCESS AND GIVING PICTURE OF AN
ESSENTIALLY FLUID SITUATION. KLEIN

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